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FOR H (A.MACDERMOTT)
PASS TO W (T.LEVETT-US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE, HOMELAND
SECURITY COMMITTEE)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OREP](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [AFIN](#) [MX](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR CODEL CUELLAR

REF: STATE 02675

¶1. Post warmly welcomes and grants country clearance to the congressional delegation headed by Representative Henry Cuellar for travel to Mexico City from January 20-22, 2008.

¶2. Post control officer for the visit is Political Officer Teresa Perez, telephone 52 (55) 5080-2000 ext 4241; fax 52 (55) 5080-2247; cell 52 (55) 3186-6312 (Nextel); e-mail pereztd@state.gov. Embassy switchboard is 52 (55) 5080-2000.

¶3. Hotel reservations have been made at the Sheraton Maria Isabel Hotel, Paseo de la Reforma 325, Col. Cuauhtemoc, Mexico City, telephone 52 (55) 5242-5555, fax 52 (55) 5207-0684, at the rate of \$204.75 per night, breakfast and tax included.

¶4. Post control officer and an airport expediter will be at the airport to meet the delegation.

¶5. The Department of State has designated Mexico City as a critical threat post due to the high level of crime and the ineffectiveness and corruption of Mexican law enforcement. Robberies at gunpoint, pick pocketing, purse snatching, taxicab abductions and quick-kidnappings continue to cause us concern. Any hotel selected for you by the embassy will be safe, but it is still wise to store all valuables in a room safe or in a safe deposit box. Leaving expensive-looking jewelry at home and wearing a plastic watch will significantly improve your security profile. The Embassy cautions travelers that they should never hail a cruising taxi (or "libre" taxi) but should instead use airport-sanctioned taxis, taxis operating from fixed sites ("sitios), or a cab called for you by your hotel.

¶6. Mexico does have health concerns. You should take normal tourist precautions with regard to drinking water, eating fresh fruits, vegetables and salads. Some employees react to the pollution and high altitude; so take things slowly at first. Travelers to Mexico City may require some time to adjust to the altitude (7000 ft.), which can adversely affect blood pressure, digestion, sleep, and energy level. Individuals with sickle cell trait should consult with the appropriate medical unit or their personal physician before commencing with travel. Short-term (TDY) assignments carry an added risk because of the lack of time to acclimatize. Dehydration, stress, or illnesses compound the basic risks of high altitude.

¶7. We encourage you to access further security and health related information as well as post access regulations for the region you are visiting at the Mission Mexico intranet homepage at <http://mexicocity.state.gov/IntraMissMex.html> or <http://www.usembassy-mexico.gov>.

Visit Mexico City's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/mexicocity> and the North American
Partnership Blog at <http://www.intelink.gov/communities/state/nap/> /
GARZA